

Exhibit A

—Original Message—

From: Carl Schwedler [mailto:cschwedler@mhala.com]

Sent: Thursday, November 18, 2004 3:29 PM

To: Randy Skaar

Subject: Battens

Dear Randy,

Please give me a call when you have had a chance to review the prior art below. We need to resolve this quickly.

US Patent No. 5794396

<http://patimg2.uspto.gov/piw?Docid=05794396&homeurl=http%3A%2F%2Fpatft.uspto.gov%2Fnetacgi%3F%2FEnph-Parser%3F%2F%3DPTO2%2526Sect2%3DHITOFF%2526u%3D%2Fnetahml%2Fsearch-adv.htm%2526r%3D1%2526p%3D1%2526f%3DG%2526i%3D50%2526d%3Dpbt%2526S1%3D5794396.WKU.%2526OS%3Dpn%2F5794396%2526RS%3DPN%2F5794396&PageNum=&Rtype=&SectionNum=&idkey=4087330D1E18>

US Patent No. 5617690

<http://patimg2.uspto.gov/piw?Docid=05617690&homeurl=http%3A%2F%2Fpatft.uspto.gov%2Fnetacgi%3F%2FEnph-Parser%3F%2F%3DPTO1%2526Sect2%3DHITOFF%2526u%3D%2Fnetahml%2Fsearch-adv.htm%2526r%3D1%2526p%3D1%2526f%3DG%2526i%3D50%2526d%3Dpbt%2526S1%3D5617690.WKU.%2526OS%3Dpn%2F5617690%2526RS%3DPN%2F5617690&PageNum=&Rtype=&SectionNum=&idkey=9FA15289F30A>

US Patent No. 5471807

<http://patimg1.uspto.gov/piw?Docid=05471807&homeurl=http%3A%2F%2Fpatft.uspto.gov%2Fnetacgi%3F%2FEnph-Parser%3F%2F%3DPTO2%2526Sect2%3DHITOFF%2526u%3D%2Fnetahml%2Fsearch-adv.htm%2526r%3D1%2526p%3D1%2526f%3DG%2526i%3D50%2526d%3Dpbt%2526S1%3D5471807.WKU.%2526OS%3Dpn%2F5471807%2526RS%3DPN%2F5471807&PageNum=&Rtype=&SectionNum=&idkey=2DB1A495020E>

US Patent No. 4418505

<http://patimg1.uspto.gov/piw?Docid=04418505&homeurl=http%3A%2F%2Fpatft.uspto.gov%2Fnetacgi%3F%2FEnph-Parser%3F%2F%3DPTO2%2526Sect2%3DHITOFF%2526u%3D%2Fnetahml%2Fsearch-adv.htm%2526r%3D1%2526p%3D1%2526f%3DG%2526i%3D50%2526d%3Dpbt%2526S1%3D4418505.WKU.%2526OS%3Dpn%2F4418505%2526RS%3DPN%2F4418505&PageNum=&Rtype=&SectionNum=&idkey=2DB1A495020E>

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Best regards,

Carl

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